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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR

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SUBJECT

Soviet Tractor Drivers

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1. Tractor drivers are at all times kolkhoz members. They are selected from among the kolkhozniki after the fall harvest and sent to the MTS (Machine Tractor Station) for training. During this period they are supported and housed by their kolkhoz, unless the MTS happens to have dormitory space.
2. In the spring, the kolkhoz chairman and the MTS director jointly select the tractor drivers for each brigade, with the MTS director choosing the brigade chief. During the work season, the kolkhoz chairman gives the daily operational orders to the brigade, e.g., what work to do in what fields. In all other matters, e.g., servicing tractors, internal administration of the brigade, the brigade is subordinate to the MTS director.
3. During seasonal work as tractor drivers, these men are subject to the 1940 decree on job-freezing. In the off-season period, these men are held on the kolkhoz by the lack of a passport, which effectively freezes all kolkhozniki on the kolkhoz, in the absence of industrial recruitment.
4. Tractor brigades usually work on their own kolkhoz, but may be drawn from neighboring kolkhozy if a given kolkhoz can't fill its brigade requirements. Payment in kind is made by the kolkhoz and includes the noon meal. The MTS provides a guaranteed minimum payment of 2.5 rubles per day.

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